



Durham Constabulary

Press Release

08.11.11

YOU'RE HIRED! POLICE RECRUIT APPRENTICE STAR FOR YOUTH PROJECT

A GROUND-breaking project will see students at a Durham school being mentored by one of the stars of BBC's *'The Apprentice'*.

Melody Hossaini reached week ten in the last series of the popular show, in which businesspeople and entrepreneurs compete for a placement or partnership with Lord Alan Sugar.

Law graduate Melody, 26 runs her own company specialising in innovative skills development bootcamps for young people, and thanks to an enterprising beat bobby from Durham she will now be bringing her expertise to around 40 students at Belmont Community School.

Over the next four months Melody's company, InspirEngage International will be working in partnership to implement a scheme designed to integrate the students in community-based projects, enhance their own abilities, raise their business awareness and develop team-building skills.

The proposed delivery plan will go before members of the student council this Friday and if accepted, the first sessions should take place next month.

The project is expected to run until next April and the police and other agencies involved are hoping it can be established on a long-term basis.

The approach to Melody Hossaini was made by Sherburn-based beat officer, PC Waheed Mughal.

..... more

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Tel: 0191 375 2157

email: pressoffice@durham.pnn.police.uk

Become a fan of Durham Constabulary on Facebook, follow Durham Police on Twitter or visit

www.youtube.com/durhampolice999

2

He had already been involved in the initial stages of developing a project with Belmont Community School but the various training companies he had contacted were not quite able to deliver what was needed.

"I had been watching 'The Apprentice' for a few weeks and it suddenly occurred to me that Melody's company might be able to provide what we were after.

"There was nothing to lose by making a basic enquiry so I sent her an email outlining what we were after. She came back to me very quickly and I am thrilled we are now at the stage where we are virtually ready to launch.

"The young people involved will take a great deal from this scheme and in time it should bring benefits to the whole community," said PC Mughal, who also highlighted the work done by local county councillors Ken Holroyd and Eric Mavin to secure funding.

"I am delighted that InspirEngage International will be working with Durham Police to support the young people in developing their skills to achieve their vision, and in turn improving the community as a whole. I very much look forward to the weeks ahead and the delivery of the InspirEngage Skills Bootcamps," said Melody Hossaini.

The project is a joint initiative funded by Durham County Council, Safe Durham Partnership and the Durham Agency Against Crime.

Melody's first session with the students will take place this Friday, 11th November when the details of the project are formally outlined to the school.

Members of the media are formally invited to the school for 1.30pm, prior to Melody meeting the school's business studies group and members of the student council. There will be opportunities to film Melody interacting with the students as well as individual interviews.

..... More

3

All the students involved are from Year 9 to Year 11 and permission for them to be filmed/interviewed will have been cleared by the school.

The school is on Buckinghamshire Road, Belmont, DH1 2QP. Parking is limited so members of the media may wish to use the on-street parking nearby.

InspirEngage International is a social enterprise which aims to improve the lives of children and young people. Launched in 2009 it now has a portfolio in over 100 countries, providing skills development training, consultancy services and public speaking.

It has already reached over a million young people, tackling the leading social issues such as youth unemployability and raising aspirations.

For more information about the company go to www.inspireengage.com

ENDS